

# SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



Winter 2003

Volume 33

## "GREEN RESOLUTIONS" FOR THE NEW YEAR

Brought to you by the California Department of Conservation

It's the season for New Year's resolutions, and the California Department of Conservation has a few suggestions about small changes that can make huge impacts on the health of the environment.

The DOC's "Green Holiday Guide" includes several useful tips about how to be "green" in the upcoming year. By committing to even a few of these resolutions, Californians can help the environment have a happy new year.

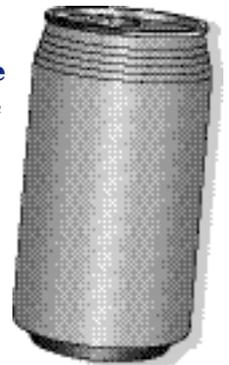
**Recycle:** Resolve to recycle wherever you are. On the road? Look for bins on your route, or save your recyclables for when you get home. At the office? Start an office-wide recycling campaign, or put a bin next to your trash can for beverage containers and paper. On the beach? Retain them until you find a bin. If you're new to recycling and not in the habit - start today, and encourage others to do the same. Call your city or county recycling program coordinator or visit [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com) to find out how.



**Remember the Other Important "R's" - Reduce and Reuse:** Help to lessen the amount of waste by buying items that use little or no packaging, or "buying in bulk" which reduces unnecessary and excessive packaging. Also, find ways to use items over and over again.

**Buy Products Made From Recycled Materials:** Resolve to "buy green" by purchasing at least one recycled-content product on a regular basis, such as paper towels or computer paper. Look for the recycling symbol (or "made from post-consumer material") on a wide range of products. There is a growing array of new products made from recycled beverage containers including backyard planter boxes and fleece clothing.

**Make Your Home a Toxic-Free Environment:** Keep your home healthy by reducing unnecessary toxic chemicals. Paints, solvents and other chemicals should be disposed of safely, not flushed down the toilet. Did you know baking soda and vinegar substitute as great all-purpose cleaners? Other non-toxic household cleaners can be found at many stores. Cut down on pesticides and fertilizers in your garden and you'll limit what gets washed into rivers, bays and the ocean.



**Get Out of the Car One Day a Week:** Resolve to spare the air. Carpool, use public transportation or bicycle. Using alternative transportation one or two days a week is manageable, and getting out from behind the wheel can be relaxing. Plus, riding a bike fulfills the annual resolution to exercise more.

Continued on page 2

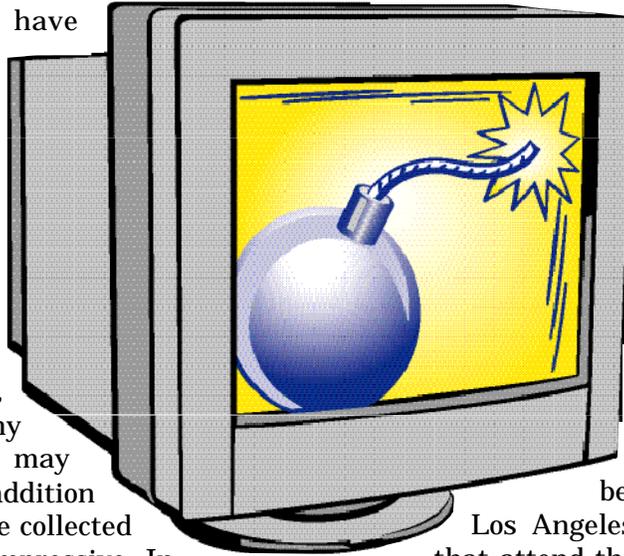
**JOIN THE TEAM:** Anyone interested in participating on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Public Education Subcommittee is encouraged to contact Clarence Gieck at (562) 402-2674, [DOR.CLAR@verizon.net](mailto:DOR.CLAR@verizon.net) or Melinda Barrett at (626) 458-5975 or [mbarrett@ladpw.org](mailto:mbarrett@ladpw.org) for more information. Quarterly meetings are held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters to discuss and review upcoming newsletters. If you feel you have something to contribute why not become a member of the Subcommittee?

If you would like to submit an article for *Inside Solid Waste* please contact **Emily Puga-Aragon** at (626) 458-3579, or [emontanez@ladpw.org](mailto:emontanez@ladpw.org).

# HHW Roundup Statistics

Before 1987, if any one of us heard the term "Roundup" we might have thought a rodeo was in town. Now we know that if a Roundup is in our city, the County of Los Angeles is providing us with their popular and convenient drop-off locations for hazardous waste.

Thousands of residents every year utilize this service to dispose of their paint, oil, household cleaners, and many other hazardous wastes they may have in their homes. With the addition of e-waste, the amount of waste collected throughout the year is quite impressive. In 2002 the following amounts of waste were collected:



- Motor Oil – 60,620 gallons
- Paint – 333,984 gallons
- Miscellaneous waste (including car batteries, antifreeze, dry cell batteries, universal waste – which includes electronic waste, propane tanks, and oil filters) – 220,659 gallons and units

These numbers are quite substantial considering this is only one year of the almost 16 years this program has been in existence. The County of

Los Angeles thanks all the participants that attend these events each Saturday and we hope to continue the success of the Roundup program in 2003!

## Green Resolutions (continued from first page)

**Start a Compost Pile to Feed Your Garden:** Convert those yard clippings and vegetable peelings and even coffee grounds into nature's fertilizer for your garden. Home composters can be found at most home and garden centers. Many counties now offer discounted rates for home composters and many more counties take yard clipping "donations" for municipal compost piles that provide soil for local parks. Call your city or county for more information or visit [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/HomeComp](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/HomeComp) to learn about composting at home.

**Enjoy the Great Outdoors:** Visit a local, state or national park. Take some time to appreciate California's world-class natural areas. Get to know some of the parks in your area and beyond. Ask about volunteer opportunities or special nature programs geared toward kids.

**Go Local - Volunteer in Your Community:** Resolve to improve your hometown environment. Sign up for the local clean-up day, tree-planting effort or community garden. Take your kids to a neighborhood creek restoration effort to show them what an ecosystem is all about. Volunteer at a local park. Adopt your own space and turn it green.

**Conserve Energy:** Cut your monthly energy bills 30 percent by replacing old equipment in your home with state-of-the-art Energy Star products. Get going on those energy-efficient home improvements you've been putting off all year. Turn off lights when you leave a room and keep the thermostat at 70 degrees. For more tips on conserving energy, visit [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov).

For more information about the "Green Holiday Guide", please visit [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com) or call 1-800-RECYCLE.



### WHAT'S HAPPENING

♻️ April 1-30th, 2003: Keep California Beautiful Month ... Great American Cleanup; Volunteers needed to help clean up California during the month of April. For more information, visit: [www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com](http://www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com) or call 1-800-CLEAN-CA.

♻️ Ongoing in 2003: Keep California Beautiful Cell Phone Recycling Drive; KCB is leading a fundraising effort while helping to eliminate toxic cell phones from the waste stream. For more information, contact KCB at 1-800-CLEAN-CA.

# Q & A

**Question:** Where does one recycle old propane gas tanks? *(from one of the County's hotline callers)*

**Answer:** There are only two proper options for fuel tank disposal. You can check Yellow Page listings under "Gas-Propane" for a company who will take the tank for a fee or dispose of it at a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup.

All previously used propane tanks are considered to have some amount of gas left in them. Even when the tank is no longer pressurized, there may still be enough flammable gas residue to start a fire. The tanks are recyclable but because of the high risk of explosion most scrap metal dealers will only accept tanks that are cut in half to ensure complete gas expulsion.

If you are unsure about whether the tank is empty, bring it to one of the County's Household Hazardous Waste Roundups. These events are held weekly in different locations throughout the County. Please visit our web site at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) to find a Roundup near you.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program is brought to you by the County of Los Angeles and presented by the Department of Public Works and the County Sanitation Districts in cooperation with local jurisdictions.

## TASK FORCE

Meetings will be held at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

February 20 Conf. Rm C  
March 20 - Conf. Rm B  
April 17 - Conf. Rm B

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the designated conference rooms.

For information call Stacey Haro at (626) 458-3547. M - Th, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

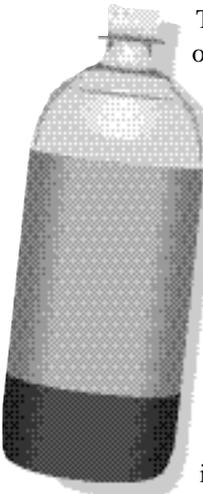
# What's Up?

**HHW ROUNDUPS** are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about City of Los Angeles events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 22 | <b>Gardena</b> - Hitco Carbon Composites<br>1551 West 139th. St.   |
| March 08    | <b>Glendale</b> - Glendale Water and Power<br>800 Air Way  |
| March 15    | <b>Marina Del Rey</b> - Dock 52 Parking Lot<br>Fiji Way  |
| March 15-16 | <b>Sun Valley</b> - Francis Poly High School<br>12431 Roscoe Blvd.<br><b>(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)</b>        |
| March 22    | <b>Diamond Bar</b> - City Streets, Gateway<br>Corporate Center, 1300 block of Bridge<br>Gate Dr.                           |
| March 29    | <b>Long Beach</b> - Veteran's Stadium<br>5000 Lew Davis Street   |
| April 05    | <b>Pico Rivera</b> - Southern California Gas<br>Company, 8101 South Rosemead Blvd.   |
| April 5-6   | <b>Crenshaw</b> - Rite-Aid, 3566 Rodeo Place<br><b>(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)</b>                              |
| April 12    | <b>Azusa</b> - Northrup-Grumman Corporation<br>West 3rd. St. and Zachary Pedilla Ave.                                      |
| April 12-13 | <b>Northridge</b> - Cal State University<br>Northridge, 18111 Nordoff St.<br><b>(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)</b> |
| April 19    | <b>Lancaster</b> - Vacant Commercial Property<br>43422 10th. Street West<br>(South of Avenue K)                            |
| April 26    | <b>Santa Clarita</b> - The College of The<br>Canyons, Parking Lot 7, Valencia Blvd.<br>at Rockwell Canyon Rd.              |
| May 10      | <b>West Covina</b> - West Covina<br>Maintenance Yard, 825 Sunset Ave.  |
| May 17-18   | <b>Van Nuys</b> - Los Angeles Valley College<br>5800 Fulton Ave.<br><b>(Conducted by the City of Los Angeles)</b>          |



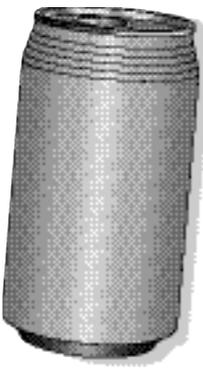
# Pasadena Honors Outstanding Recyclers



The Pasadena City Council recognized five outstanding companies and individuals with Outstanding Recycler Awards as a kickoff to November 2002 as Environmental Awareness Month.

The categories chosen for recognition include:

- Voluntary development of a source reduction, reuse, or recycling program for a commercial operation or nonprofit organization.
- Creative reuse of common objects by an individual, group, or organization.
- Educational outreach to the general public and/or youth to inspire environmental stewardship by an individual or group.
- Sustainable development practices, including design, to incorporate recycled/salvaged materials, energy efficient building materials and systems, and reuse or recycling of construction and demolition materials.
- Advocacy of the preservation of natural resources as demonstrated by the implementation and maintenance of a backyard, school, or community garden that incorporates composting, water saving techniques, integrated or organic pest management, and/or a landscape that provides habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife.



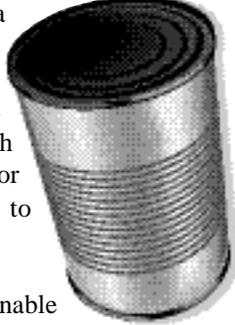
The individuals and organizations honored in 2002 as Outstanding Recyclers came to the City's attention through participation in surveys, business practices, participation in recycling outreach events/workshops, or recommendation by others.

Outstanding Recyclers chosen for 2002 are:



**Avon Products, Inc.** for a commercial operation that practices both reuse and recycling. Worldwide, Avon recycles 40 million pounds of cardboard and paper annually.

**Community Institute for Self Determination.** This organization works with youth at risk. A summer-long program emphasized art with recycled materials as a positive form of self-expression.



**Jeanine Hernandez**, creator of Bubbles the Earth Wise Clown, and founder of Earth Wise Friends, a non-profit organization for environmental education and outreach to youth.

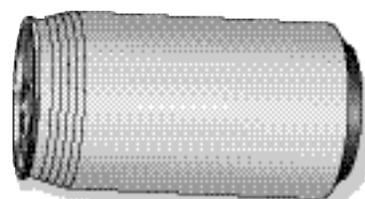
**J. L. Mosely Company, Inc.** for sustainable development practices for salvage, reuse, and recycling of materials used in a project at 445 and 455 Montana Street. The project incorporates adaptive reuse of a historic building.



**San Rafael School/Julie Bohannon Navarro** for turning a small infertile plot into an experimental garden for second graders and creating habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife.



Future honorees may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. The Pasadena Department of Public Works will provide an application form throughout the year. All nominations must be received by September 1 and will be presented at the first Council meeting in the month of November. For more information or an application, please contact the recycling coordinator at (626) 744-4721 or [cmeredith@ci.pasadena.ca.us](mailto:cmeredith@ci.pasadena.ca.us).



# City of Santa Clarita Diaper Recycling Program

*"Everything is flowing – going somewhere,"* John Muir said, reflecting on the natural world that envelops our planet. The same can be said for the byproducts of our modern world, the remnants of daily living flowing to landfills each year. One of the largest single contributors to our nation's landfills is disposable baby diapers. Used by 98% of parents, the U.S. EPA estimates that nearly 20 billion disposable diapers, almost seven billion pounds, enter our landfills annually. Diapers are also responsible for approximately five million tons of untreated human waste saturating these sites each year. And research suggests that a single diaper can take nearly 500 years to decompose. But a unique public/private partnership, between Canada-based Knowaste LLC and the City of Santa Clarita, California, will launch a diaper recycling program that could change all that.

Santa Clarita is the first city in the United States to make recycling diapers an environmental priority. It is the goal of the Santa Clarita City Council to ultimately divert as much as 75% of the city's trash from landfills by continuing to reduce trash and recycle more items.

Knowaste has spent the last decade developing and applying recycling technology. The company's Netherlands facility is the hallmark of diaper recycling. The state-of-the-art facility opened in 1999 and can process up to one hundred thousand tons of diaper material per year. The Knowaste processor in Santa Clarita will be a small-scale version of the Netherlands facility and will be capable of processing up to a ton of diapers per hour.



This revolutionary pilot program will be administered by the City of Santa Clarita and will make recycling diapers as easy as recycling soda cans, newspapers or yard trimmings. Approximately 500 residents, selected by the city, will participate in this free program for six months, placing used diapers in specially designed plastic bags or curbside bins that will be collected once a week on their regularly scheduled trash pick-up day. The Knowaste processor will sanitize and recycle the diapers' primary components. The plastic can be used in the production of plastic wood, roof shingles and vinyl wood siding. The long fibrous wood pulp can be used in cardboard boxes, wallpaper, shoe insoles and oil filters.

In addition to recycling the individual diaper components and ultimately reducing our trash stream, diaper recycling technology further serves to protect the environment from untreated human waste, inherent in soiled diapers, by diverting it from landfills, reducing potential contamination of groundwater sources.

This innovative program will be watched closely by elected officials, cities and counties, environmental organizations, public health groups, recycling organizations, the waste industry and mothers and fathers across California. With successful results, a diaper recycling program could come to a community near you.

## Puente Hills Landfill Near End of Re-Permitting Process

On December 18, 2002, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission approved a new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Puente Hills Landfill. The new CUP would allow the Landfill to receive up to 13,200 tons of solid waste per day for an additional ten-year period of operation beyond the current CUP's expiration date of October 31, 2003.

The project would set a new standard for landfills with a vast array of environmental protection measures and diversion activities that have been proposed and/or agreed to by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSD). The project provides for needed in-County disposal

capacity (38 million tons) while providing a jump-start to waste-by-rail and alternatives to landfilling and incineration. The project includes firm timelines for development of rail-accessible remote landfills and associated in-County infrastructure as well as funding for the Task Force, in concert with the County and CSD, to conduct studies of conversion technologies that may be most appropriate for Southern California.

For more information, please contact Mike Mohajer of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at (626) 458-3500.

## CARL WASHINGTON AND CHERYL PEACE APPOINTED TO WASTE BOARD

On November 29, 2002, Carl Washington was appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly to represent the public on the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Washington served in the Assembly for 6 years (1996-2002). It was Mr. Washington who authored Assembly Bill 2067 (2000) and principally co-authored Assembly Bill 1939 (2000) which were sponsored by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and this Task Force. Among other things, both Bills attempted to place more emphasis on waste diversion program implementation and less on strict mathematical compliance for the purpose of complying with the State's 50 percent waste diversion mandate. These bills served as a catalyst for subsequent legislation (e.g., SB2202) and changes in the Waste Board approach in recognizing the problems with the current disposal reporting system.

On January 8, 2003, Mr. Washington was joined by Cheryl Peace as the newly appointed CIWMB member. She was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee to also represent the public. According to a CIWMB press release, Ms. Peace has experience in commercial property management and the financial sector.

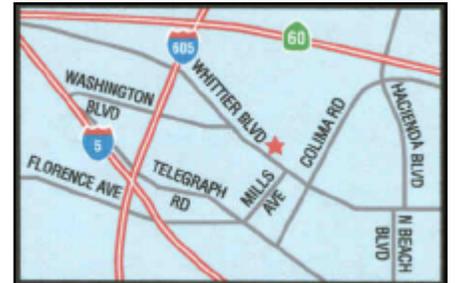
The Task Force looks forward to working with Mr. Washington and Ms. Peace and extends its congratulations to both of them.

## Cleaning Up LA One Tire At A Time

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works wants your scrap tires. As their current campaign and slogan "We Love Old Bald Guys" hits stride, the County is encouraging residents to bring their tires to free waste tire collection events. The tires will be recycled instead of disposed in landfills.

So far, they have conducted events in Gardena and La Puente, and collected 655 and 957 tires respectively. The events are scheduled approximately bi-monthly in different areas throughout the County. Participants receive a coupon for a free dozen glazed donuts with any dozen bought from a popular donut sponsor. The next event is in Whittier in February. Other events are scheduled for Antelope Valley in April and Compton in June. Check [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) for details.

## We Love Old Bald Guys.



### Restrictions:

- No tires from businesses.
- No oversized or tractor tires.
- Please remove rims.
- If you transport 10 or more tires per trip, please obtain an exemption form at (626) 430-5540, Dept. of Health Services.

Saturday, February 22  
9am - 3pm

East Whittier  
Middle School  
14421 E. Whittier Blvd.  
Whittier, CA